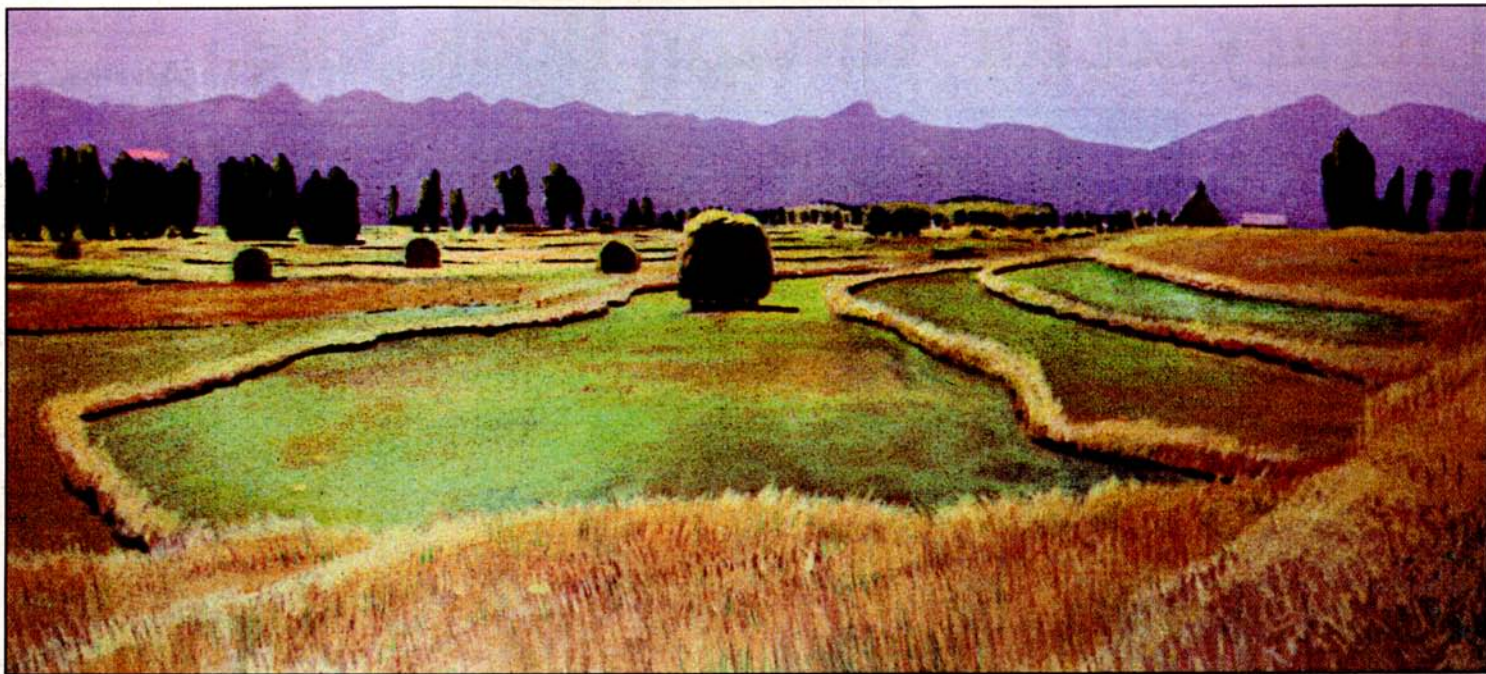


THE ARTS

COURTESY PHOTO

DIVERSE PAINTINGS:

"Porter Estate #1" by Travis Walker will be on display in his exhibit at Betty Rock during October. Walker uses vibrant colors in his paintings of local scenes.



New local artist displays talent at first show

• Travis Walker says he is part of a growing movement toward a more diverse art culture in Jackson.

By Kimberly Beekman
Jackson Hole Guide

During the five months Travis Walker has lived in Jackson, he has found so much to paint right around his house that he hasn't even ventured out of town.

Walker will display his vibrant, unique paintings of places such as Snow King, the Wort Hotel and the Hereford Ranch at Betty Rock Cafe throughout the month of October. The date for the opening reception will be announced soon.

Although Walker's subject matter is

landscapes or buildings that locals see everyday, the paintings are anything but ordinary. The colors include bright yellows, greens and purples, painted in uniform shades that give the paintings a feeling of purity.

Walker sees shadows as gorgeous shades of plum, trees as pine green, and hayfields as the color of sunshine itself. He manages to capture the true aura or feeling of a place without being — or, perhaps because he's not being — representationally true.

Not painting everything exactly the way it looks is what separates Walker's art from many of the pieces hanging in local galleries. He said he is part of a growing movement of locals who support diversity of art in Jackson.

"Other towns (such as Santa Fe) have

been successful in integrating contemporary views, and this town isn't one of them," he said.

Walker believes that art can represent the West or the western style that's so popular here in many ways, he said. His landscapes are a good example of that, because they are plein air paintings, which is a traditional western way of painting, but they reflect a different vision and style.

Perhaps one reason Walker's style, palette and vision are so unique is that he is seeing the area through the eyes of someone from the East Coast, where the sky is mostly hazy or cloudy and the landscape is full of rolling hills. Prior to his move, he did many different kinds of paintings and drawings, most of which did not involve landscapes.

"It seems like you have to do landscape

paintings when you come out West, because you just want to stay outside," he said.

This winter, when being outside is not nearly as appealing, Walker will work from a variety of drawings he's made during the summer and fall.

"I'll take my drawings like recipes, and work off of them all winter," he said.

The show at Betty Rock will be Walker's first solo show since graduating from art school. All of his paintings will be for sale.

He is now painting full time, and he said he hopes to get involved with the Center for the Arts in the future. One particular project he is hoping to work on is creating affordable studio space for artists.